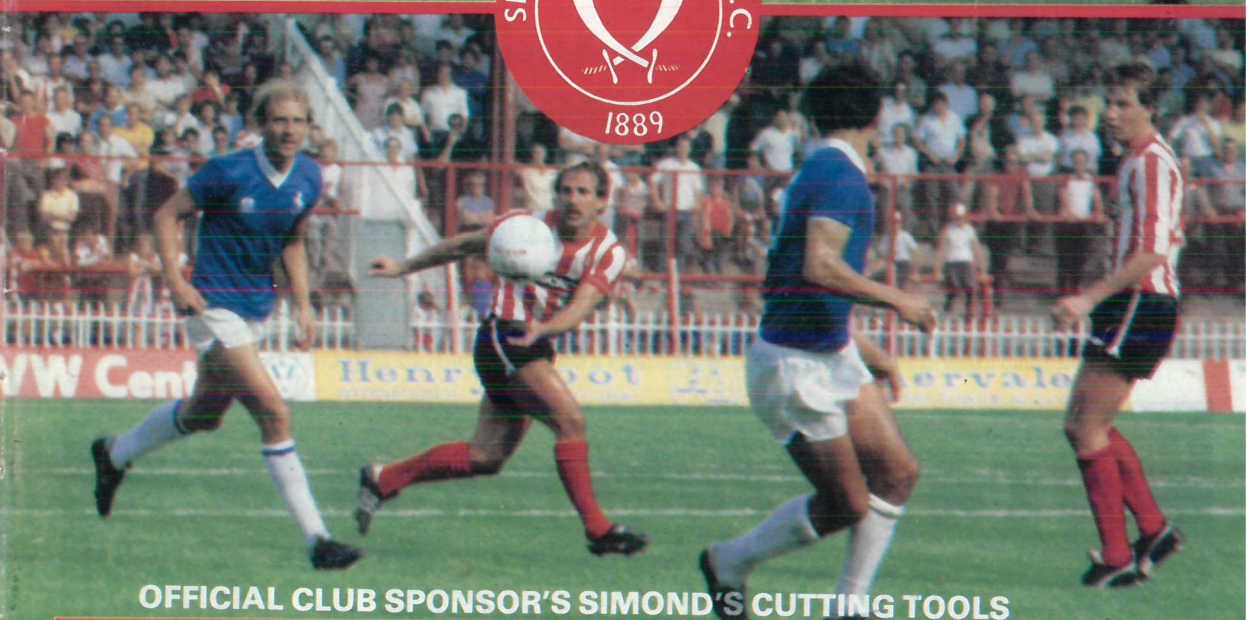
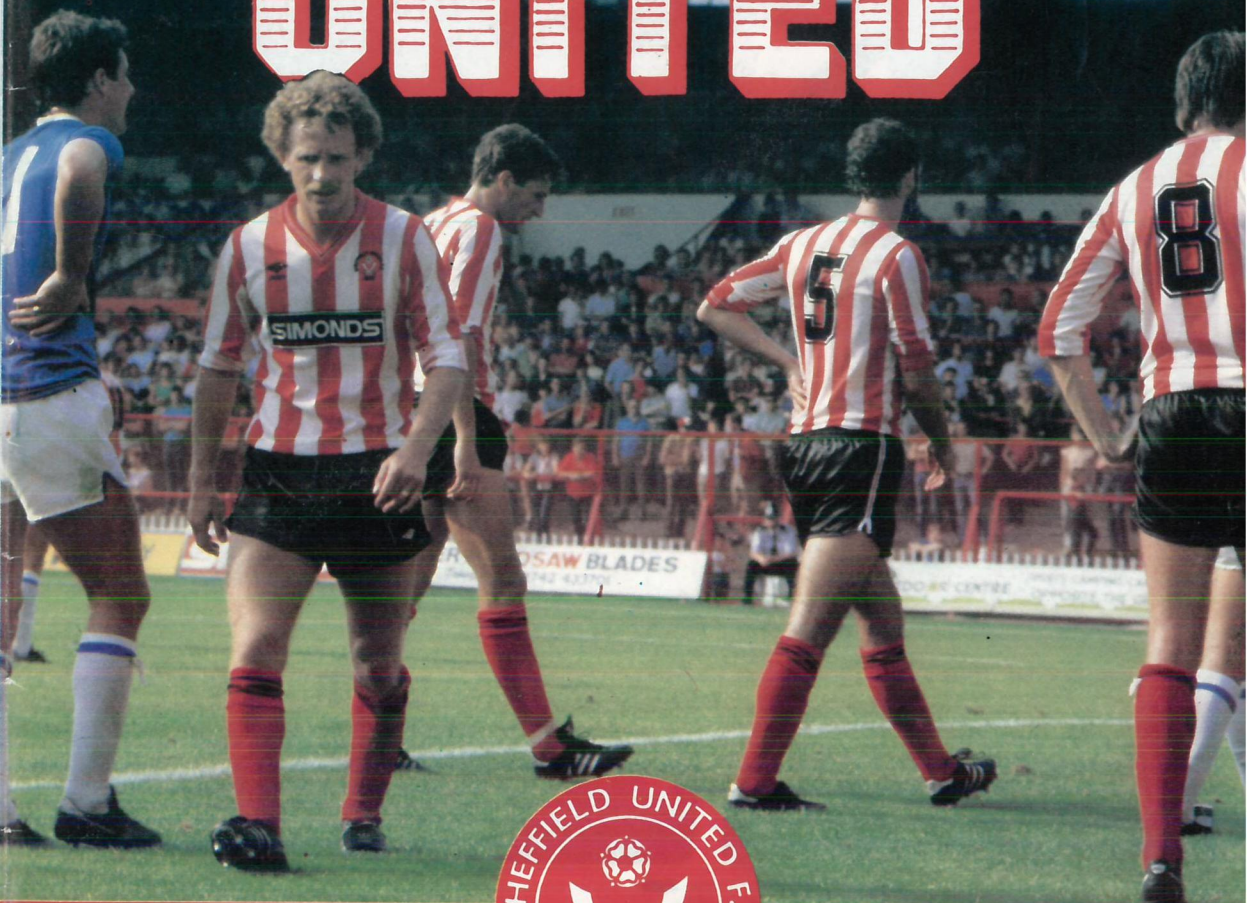


UNITED

40p



OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSOR'S SIMOND'S CUTTING TOOLS

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

BOLTON WANDERERS

SATURDAY 31st DECEMBER 1983 K.O. 3.00 p.m.

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The last match of an eventful year for us.

May I thank you for your support throughout 1983 and look forward to a successful time for all of us in 1984 when it is our hope, dream and intention to see Sheffield United playing again in the Second Division.

Christmas has come and gone — not that we had much opportunity to celebrate in the traditional style. I do not often release details of how our players spend their away time but I felt it useful to let you know of the dedication of everyone in cheerfully sacrificing time with our families to get on with the job.

We had Christmas lunch in our own homes, went into a hotel in Sheffield on Christmas evening and stayed together until after the Port Vale match.

And so Christmas 1983 didn't really exist for us. But if, in giving up this traditional time, we have something even greater to celebrate next May, the exercise will have been well worthwhile.

Looking back it has been a demanding year for us all. Our hopes last season were all to quickly dashed and we knew that radical changes, in personnel and attitude, were necessary if we were to make 1983-4 a more memorable time.

The Christmas matches have gone and I do not know how we fared as I write these notes before the Rotherham match. But I remain confident that we have the squad of players to do well and to compete all the way.



Ian Porterfield

It is not my style to make promises. My mind goes back to a former chairman of mine who promised the championship in mid-season. Well as it happened, we made it. But I still recall the extra pressure it put upon us.

It is my way to go about the job with a low profile. It may be a cliché of mine but I repeat . . . the only way we do our talking is on the grass. No amount of promises, publicity or gimmicks can weigh against solid achievement on the field.

At the time of writing this, our achievements HAVE been solid and consistent and as I look back

at the first half of the season, only once have I been deeply disappointed and that was on the night of our defeat at Orient. I would certainly like to play that one again and so would the players.

During the first half of the season football has gone in for the experiment of "live" television. We watched the Manchester United v Spurs match on the eve of our game at Newport and it was fine entertainment.

But, speaking personally and not for the club, I remain unconvinced about its contribution to the game. The gate at Old Trafford was significantly down and in the long run the salvation of League football lies in attracting supporters, particularly in family groups, back through the turnstiles.

In the provision of facilities and family tickets, Sheffield United have set the right example and we have much to be proud of.

On the field we feel we are delivering the goods and my staff and players honestly feel we are on the verge of the breakthrough.

Stay with us in 1984 when I hope we will take another giant leap forward and restore Bramall Lane to Second Division status. If we can do that it will be the completion of a marvellous recovery — but the total completion will not be arrived at until we go all the way.

A Happy New Year to you and your families from all of us.

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F.Inst.B.M., F.I.o.R.

Alan Laver

Derek Dooley

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President:

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Sheffield S2 4SU.

Telephone

0742 738955/6/7.

Manager:

Ian Porterfield.

Company Secretary:

Geoff Smith.

Marketing Executive:

Andy Daykin.

Programme Design and

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Ilford, Essex.

Telephone: 01-501 2311

BOLTON

Though currently figuring in the top half of Division Three, Bolton Wanderers have of course been regular opponents of ours over the years, mainly in First Division games for they have spent a total of 60 seasons there.

Founded in 1874 as Christ Church Football Club they became founder-members of the Football League in 1888 and by the time of the outbreak of the First World War they had been relegated four times and promoted four times. During his period they twice reached the F.A. Cup final but in one fell at the beginning of the 1902/3 season they did not win any of their first 23 games of the season.

Their longest spell in Division One lasted from 1911 to 1933 in the course of which they twice climbed as high as third and three times won the F.A. Cup. They also enjoyed a 22 season spell there either side of the Second World War in the course of which they again won the F.A. Cup in 1958 when beating Manchester United side that had risen from the ashes of the Munich air disaster.

Since 1964, however, they have only spent two seasons, in Division One (from 1978 to 1980) and after three uneasy seasons back in Division Two they were relegated at the end of last season.

This was particularly disappointing as by March they were looking reasonably comfortable only to win just one of their last eleven games to plunge to bottom place after winning only one away game (at Oldham) all season.

THIS SEASON

Now in his second season at the helm John McGovern, the former Derby and Nottingham Forest stalwart, is still looking for improvement in away results though Wanderers have at last won at Port Vale and Bradford City and drawn at Exeter

and Bournemouth. At Burnden Park they have lost only to Newport and their six wins up to the time of writing include an 8-1 hammering that they handed out to Walsall in September. In recent weeks they have beaten Fourth Division Tranmere and Mansfield to earn themselves a third round F.A. Cup tie against Sunderland.

TONY CALDWELL, signed this season from Horwich R.M.I., netted five times in the Walsall game and is currently well into double figures, receiving good support up front from Eire international JEFF CHANDLER (ex-Blackpool and Leeds) and WAYNE FOSTER, an England Youth cap in his third season.

In midfield NEIL REDFEARN, a former Nottingham Forest junior, links up with WARREN JOYCE, son of former Burnley defender Walter Joyce and STEVE THOMPSON, now in his second season and making quite an impact with his powerful shooting. In defence GERRY McELHINNEY came from Distillery three years ago and links up with PETER VALENTINE (from Huddersfield in exchange for Paul Jones during the summer) in the centre with BRIAN BORROWS (from Everton last season) and RAY DEAKIN (from Port Vale two years ago) on the flanks. In goal SIMON FARNWORTH has made his debut this season and has been an immediate success while substitute recently has been SIMON RUDGE, a local lad in his second season.

JOHN MCGOVERN (Midfield). John was appointed Player/Manager in June '82. One of the game's most respected players, he has won League Championship honours with Derby County and Nottingham Forest — whom he also led as captain to two European Cup and two Football League Cup successes.



Front Row: Charlie Wright (Coach), Jeff Chandler, Steve Saunders, John McGovern (Player/Manager), Ray Deakin, Simon Rudge, Peter Nightingale

Middle Row: Warren Joyce, Neil Redfearn, Steve Thompson, Tony Caldwell, Eric Snookes, Wayne Foster.

Back Row: Brian Borrows, Neil Berry, John Platt, Simon Farnworth, Gerry McElhinney, Peter Valentine.



MANSFIELD BEERS

THERE'S ONLY ONE M

SIMON FARNWORTH (Goalkeeper). Coached enthusiastically by Charlie Wright, Simon has been waiting in the wings for his first team break for a couple of seasons.

GERRY McELHINNEY (Defender). Signed from Distillery at the beginning of the 80/81 season, a former Gaelic footballer and amateur boxer, who made his debut for the Wanderers soon after signing. An aggressive, enthusiastic defender who just failed to make the Northern Ireland Cup squad.

RAY DEAKIN (Defender). A left full back who can also play in midfield, Ray joined the Wanderers in the summer of 1982 on a free transfer from Port Vale. Began his career with Everton.

NEIL BERRY (Defender). International Youth honours with Scotland launched Neil into what promises to be a first class career.

PETER VALENTINE (Defender). Peter exchanged places during the summer with former Wanderers' skipper Paul Jones who joined Huddersfield, Crossing the Pennines brought a fresh challenge for the promising young central defender.

BRIAN BORROWS (Defender/midfield). A regular full back berth at Everton in the First Division brought Brian to the attention of a number of clubs last season, Wanderers stepping in just before the transfer deadline, signing the Liverpool youngster for a modest fee. Eight appearances last season in Bolton colours were all in midfield showing the versatility of this promising young player.

WARREN JOYCE (Midfield). Son of club coach Walter, the former Blackburn and Burnley defender, Warren got his chance in midfield last season. A county cricketer at colts level and a rugby union schoolboy tourist makes Warren an all round sportsman.

STEVE THOMPSON (Midfield). Three appearances all away from home, was Steve's taste of first team action last season. Operates wide in Midfield but likes to home in on goal with his powerful shooting.

NEIL REDEFARN (Midfield). It was impossible to ignore Neil's talent last season and when John McGovern was looking for someone to slot into his own midfield position when he was injured, Neil got the job making his debut, still only 17, at Rotherham. Enthusiastic and packing a fierce shot, Neil made 10 first team appearances last season.

WAYNE FOSTER (Striker). A former local schoolboy, Foster came onto the Wanderers' scene in the 1981/82 season and commanded a regular place in the attack. Recognised at representative level he got his first England Youth cap in Scotland in a European Championship qualifier.

STEVE SAUNDERS (Striker). A cruel sequence of injuries robbed Steve of his chance of a first team place last season. But it won't be long before this livewire attacker makes his League bow.

SIMON RUDGE (Striker). Simon won the hearts of the Bolton fans with his terrier-like qualities last season. Three goals from 21 appearances in a side struggling for goals was enough to suggest that we'll see a lot more of this diminutive striker from Warrington.

TONY CALDWELL (Striker). Record breaking scoring feats in Non-League football meant Tony was sure to attract attention sooner or later from one of the North West League clubs. Bolton moved in and signed the self employed electrician on part time professional terms from Horwich R.M.I.

BOLTON THROUGH THE YEARS

'DAI' DAVIES was capped for Wales at soccer while with Bolton in 1902 and was also capped for the Welsh Rugby Union team while playing for Swinton.

JACK SUTCLIFFE made his league debut in goal for Bolton in 1889 while his brother Charlie made his league debut for Rotherham 31 years later in October 1920.

JOE SMITH (manager of Blackpool just after the Second World War) netted 38 goals for Bolton in 1920/1, a club record that still stands.

DICK PYM won three F.A. Cup winners' medals for Bolton in the twenties without conceding a goal in any of the three finals.

RAY PARRY was just 15 years and 207 days old when making his debut for Bolton in October 1951.

RALPH GUBBINS scored both goals for Bolton in their F.A. Cup semi-final win in 1957/8 against Blackburn, but was dropped for the final.

Until this season the last Football League game televised live was the one in which Bolton won 1-0 at Blackpool in September 1960.

IN RETROSPECT SHEFFIELD UNITED v BOLTON WANDERERS

DIVISION ONE	HOME	AWAY	DIVISION ONE	HOME	AWAY
1893/4	4-2	1-0	1928/9	1-1	1-3
1894/5	5-0	2-6	1929/30	2-3	1-2
1895/6	1-0	1-4	1930/1	2-0	2-6
1896/7	1-0	2-0	1931/2	4-0	1-3
1897/8	4-0	1-0	1932/3	3-2	3-3
1898/9	3-1	0-3	DIVISION TWO		
1900/1	0-2	0-0	1934/5	6-2	1-1
1901/2	2-0	0-1	DIVISION ONE		
1902/3	7-1	0-1	1946/7	4-2	2-3
1905/6	5-2	2-1	1947/8	2-1	3-2
1906/7	3-0	1-6	1948/9	1-1	1-6
1907/8	1-0	1-1	1953/4	3-0	1-2
1909/10	2-2	0-1	1954/5	2-0	0-1
1911/12	0-5	3-0	1955/6	1-3	1-2
1912/13	0-2	2-4	1961/2	2-0	1-3
1913/14	2-0	1-3	1962/3	4-1	2-3
1914/15	3-1	1-0	1963/4	0-1	0-3
1919/20	3-2	0-1	DIVISION TWO		
1920/1	2-2	2-2	1968/9	5-2	2-4
1921/2	1-0	1-3	1969/70	0-1	0-0
1922/3	2-2	1-1	1970/1	2-2	1-2
1923/4	0-0	2-4	DIVISION TWO		
1924/5	2-0	1-3	1976/7	2-3	2-1
1925/6	2-0	1-2	1977/8	1-3	1-2
1926/7	1-1	1-4			
1827/8	4-3	1-1			

Sheffield United 1 (Woodward) Bolton 5 (Reid, Worthington, Nicholson, Greaves pen, Whatmore).

Bolton 2 (Reid, Whatmore) Sheffield United 1 (Woodward).

Teams for last game here, January 14, 1978:

SHEFFIELD UTD: Brown; Cutbush, Calvert (Campbell), Kenworthy, Colquhoun, Keeley, Woodward, Edwards, Stainrod, Hamson, Hamilton.

BOLTON: McDonagh; Nicholson, Ritson, Greaves, Walsh, Allardyce, Morgan, Whatmore, Train, Reid, Worthington.

Attendance: 22,603.

STAR VISITOR JEFF CHANDLER

Though new boy Tony Caldwell made an explosive start to the season it has been wide attacker Jeff Chandler who has been posing most threats to opposing defences in recent weeks and he will need close attention today.

Born in Hammersmith in 1959 Jeff joined Blackpool as an apprentice and signed professional at the age of 17, making his first team debut in a Second Division match at Blackburn in September 1977 and celebrating the event by scoring the matchwinner. He moved to Leeds in September 1979 and in the same season won two Eire caps. He was in and out of the first team at Elland Road and in quest of regular first team football he moved to Bolton in October 1981 and capped a good first season with Wanderers by getting the opening goal in the final game of the season against Sheffield Wednesday that enabled them to stay up.

Though Wanderers went down last season he has settled down in Division Three and has made this his best season so far as far as goalscoring is concerned, his goal in the recent 2-2 draw against Preston being his third in four games and his ninth of the season.

In just over 150 games he has now netted 25 goals and he is now probably approaching his peak as he shows that indefinable scent for goals as well as maintaining his earlier role of providing a service to his fellow strikers.

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The five lucky winners who each win a £400 holiday voucher for Thompson Holidays in the Blades Cash Lottery are:

Mr. N. Rowley, Sheffield 5
Mrs. L. B. Knights, Sheffield 5
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Mrs. T. Bateman, Sheffield 4
Mr. N. Hooton, Grenoside
In the same lottery Mr. J. Houghton of Sheffield 13 won the Blades super prize of £1,000.

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Saturday 7th January
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Tickets now on sale

Season Ticket holders **MUST** claim their seat tickets by Wednesday 4th January.

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For just £3.00 you can join our fabulous Junior Blades. You receive a Club Scarf — Badge — Pen — Autographs — Birthday Card and you can enter the Kop for just 70p, the Terrace for £1.00. What a saving.

The youngsters may also enter the Junior Pen for 70p.

We are planning a nearly New Sale at Bramall Lane, we are looking for some good quality clothes, most people have clothes which no longer fit them and take up valuable wardrobe space.

We would welcome coat hangers so the clothing may be stored correctly. All the money will be ploughed back into Sheffield United via the Junior Blades.

Please contact George McCabe at Bramall Lane.

PROGRAMME Senior Blades

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday January 10th, starting at 2.00 p.m. Lunches must be ordered in advance — starting at 12.30 p.m. prompt.

NEWS & VIEWS

The next Social evening will be held on Sunday, January 15th, 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Mid week social — Tuesday, January 31st, 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

LEEDS UNITED/HUNSLETT RLFC PROGRAMME FAIR

Leeds United and Hunslet RLFC are staging a Programme Fair in the new Elland Road Restaurant on **Sunday January 22nd, 1984** between **11 a.m. and 3 p.m.**

Admission to the public will be 25p for adults, 10p for juveniles/senior citizens and all the leading collectors from the North of England will be exhibiting and will be pleased to deal with any programme queries from the public, covering football and rugby league programmes.

OFFICIAL YEAR BOOK

The Sheffield United Official Year Book is now on sale priced at 85p. The book includes photos of all your favourite players, articles from the management and the local media, along with facts and figures and a history of the club — Don't Miss It.

BLADES TRAVEL CLUB

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M1, M18

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follow signs London to join

M1

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Roundabout

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signposted North Circular Road

The West and at next roundabout take 2nd exit Hangar Lane Station (Underground)

4.9

Keep forward

2.8

Chiswick Flyover (Roundabout)

Follow signs South Circular Road A205

4.8

Putney

Over crossroads

In 0.7 miles forward A3 into

1.2

Wandsworth

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WELSH FANS LOOKING FOR SUPPORT

Two loyal supporters, Mr. C. Coleman and Mr. D. Bull regularly travel to the Lane from S.W. Wales (Tenby) and also go to as many away fixtures as possible. They would be very interested to hear from anyone else who travels from the same area, or anybody who would like to.

Mr. Coleman can be contacted at:-

Malin Hs Hotel, St Brides Hill, Saundersfoot.

Tel: 0834-812344.

PROGRAMME SWAP WANTED

Peter Holmes of London, urgently requires the Luton v Sheffield United programme from the 1976/77 season and offers the 1974/75 Sheffield United v Leeds United and the 78/79 Sheffield United v Leeds United (League Cup) programme in return.

Anyone interested should write to:-

Peter Holmes, 51 Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AS.

LUCKY MASCOT

Our last lucky mascot of 1983 is Mark O'Rourke.

Mark is 11 years old and attends Todwick Junior and Infant School. He likes all sport, but particularly football and although an active Junior Blade he plays for Sheffield Rangers, who are current leaders of the Redgate League A Division.

Mark's favourite players at the Lane, are Colin Morris, Keith Edwards and Ray McHale.



SPONSOR KIT

Fans and businesses are invited to sponsor one or more of their favourite player's kit and join the **KIT SPONSORS TABLE** shown below. We would like to thank all those individuals or firms who have already sponsored players.

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GARY BRAZIL	JUNIOR BLADES	JUNIOR BLADES	JUNIOR BLADES	JUNIOR BLADES		
JOE BOLTON						
STEVE CHARLES						
KEITH EDWARDS			SPORTSMAN SUPPORTERS CLUB			
PAUL GARNER						
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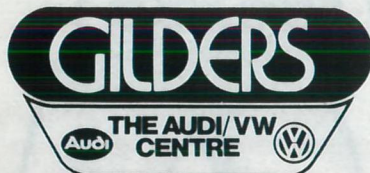
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3rd DIVISION SCENE

At the turn of the year it seems a fitting time to look at exactly how our pre-season forecasts are turning out and one can sometimes feel a little embarrassed as one's favourite for promotion battle against relegation or when (as is happening in Division One at the moment) a Coventry City battle not against a relegation threat but put the pressure on the Liverpools and Manchester Uniteds at the top.

In this column we expressed the feeling that Oxford might again do well and they have so far exceeded expectations, not only taking over as front-runners, but also matching Manchester United in almost every department in the course of a protracted Milk Cup-tie. Burnley too are fulfilling our confidence in them despite a poor start and one just can't see a team with such talent as Kevin Reeves and Billy Hamilton up front and Brian Flynn in midfield staying in Division Three for more than one season.

We suggested that Bolton and Rotherham might take longer to consolidate and though this is in general true the Millers have surprised us with their excellent form in both cup competitions. Of the teams just up from Division Four we did not really expect Hull to be making such an impact in the promotion

race, but all credit is due to them for their making the transaction to a higher division with so many young players.

Port Vale, however, whom we confidently expected to do well, have been a bitter disappointment to all, particularly to JOHN McGRATH, who has lost his managerial position after such an abysmal run of home defeats. Brentford too have disappointed many people, while Preston North End after what looked likely to become a drastic turnover of staff have so far achieved fairly similar results to last season.

Of the clubs currently in the promotion hunt Sheffield United looked a good bet provided Keith Edwards kept scoring goals — and how well he had done just that and Bristol Rovers under new player-manager Bristol Rovers are again in the hunt as they were last season with Bobby Gould. On the other hand who would have expected Orient with so few goals to their credit to be as well placed as they are or Walsall with relatively few changes from the side that was struggling this time last year to be in the promotion hunt and setting up a new club record of nine successive home wins in league and cup.

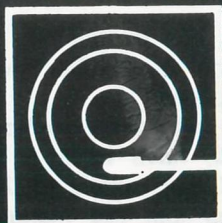
Who then for promotion? What about Burnley, Oxford and Sheffield United? Relegation? Well Port Vale look doomed already and Brentford, Bradford City and Scunthorpe will do well to escape. If one or more of these clubs escape then Exeter, and/or Wigan will probably be in trouble while if the above three clubs do not fulfil expectations then either Hull or Walsall could achieve the seeming-miracle of going up to Division Two. But of one thing we can all be sure. There will be a few more surprises in store for us by May.

SCOREBOARD

A CARLISLE UNITED SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	H OXFORD UNITED ORIENT	A IPSWICH TOWN NOTTS COUNTY	H WOLVERHAMPTON W. NORWICH CITY
B AFC BOURNEMOUTH EXETER CITY	J PLYMOUTH ARGYLE SOUTHEND UNITED	B LEICESTER CITY WEST BROMWICH ALBION	J BARNLEY MANCHESTER CITY
C BRENTFORD NEWPORT COUNTY	K PRESTON NORTH END WALSALL	C MANCHESTER UNITED STOKE CITY	K CHARLTON ATHLETIC HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
D BURNLEY SCUNTHORPE UNITED	L WIGAN ATHLETIC ROTHERHAM UNITED	D NOTTINGHAM FOREST LIVERPOOL	L GRIMSBY TOWN CARDIFF CITY
E GILLINGHAM WIMBLEDON	M ARSENAL SOUTHAMPTON	E SUNDERLAND LUTON TOWN	M LEEDS UNITED MIDDLESBROUGH
F HULL CITY PORT VALE	N ASTON VILLA QUEENS PARK RANGERS	F WATFORD BIRMINGHAM CITY	N SWANSEA CITY DERBY COUNTY
G LINCOLN CITY BRADFORD CITY	P EVERTON COVENTRY CITY	G WEST HAM UNITED TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	P ALDERSHOT CHESTERFIELD

RED INDICATOR

YELLOW INDICATOR



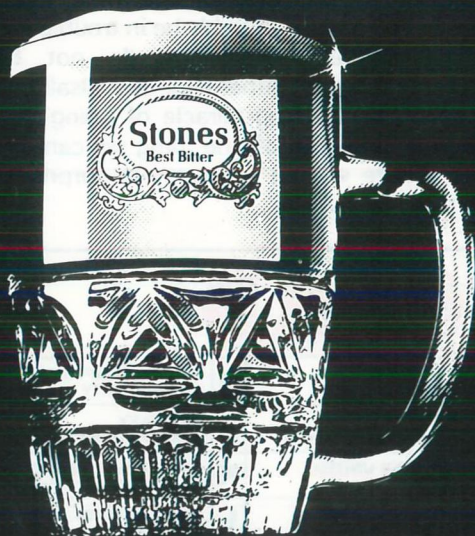
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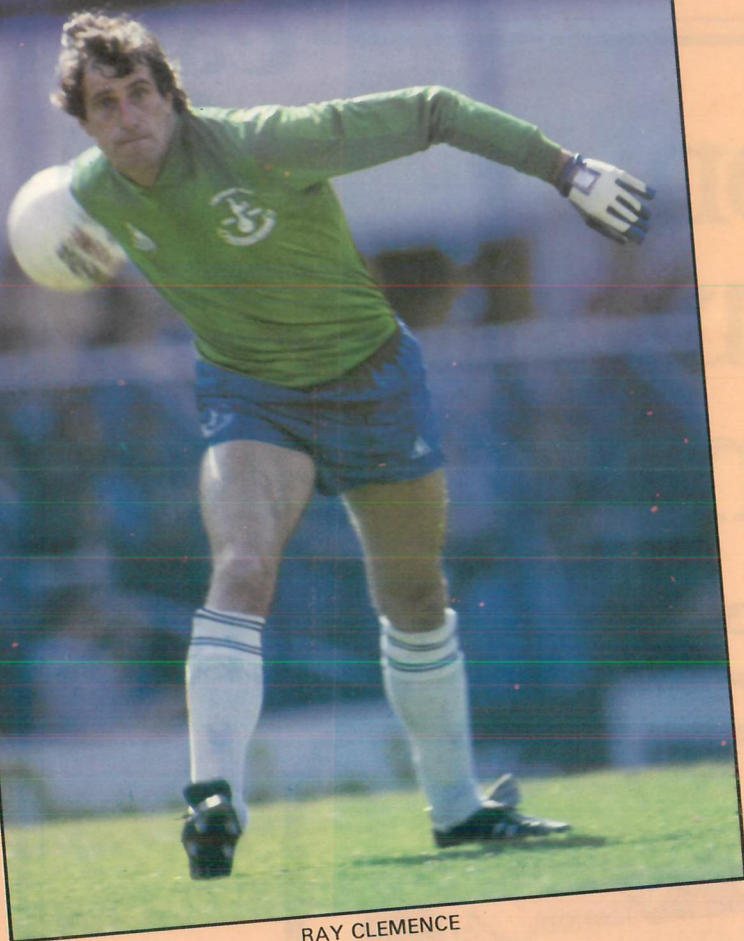
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BEYOND THE RANGE OF LOGIC



RAY CLEMENCE

"SUPERSTITION! . . . Everyone in football has superstitions of one sort or another, but I'm not telling you what mine are," says Norwich City boss Ken Brown.

It is almost stranger than fiction at times, those peculiar quirks of the mind that persuade intelligent men to put their trust into a figment of the imagination.

But that is the name of the game, particularly in professional sport where what matters most is the result. Most players will laugh off any suggestions that they are superstitious and deny the practice but in truth it lurks there at the back of most minds.

This mysterious factor manifests itself in all sorts of ways and embraces everyone, supporters and directors, players and managers. From the simplest action of wearing the same tie, suit or shirt until the team loses, to preparing the team's training schedules and pre-match preparations in exactly the same way as before a previous victory, even if it means using a hotel which is a little out of the way.

It all boils down to human nature and in some respects reflects a need for reassurance from an outside body, a boost for the old morale to sweep away

those inner feelings of uncertainty.

Even the hardest men in the game are smitten by it. There can be few more down to earth people around than Birmingham City manager Ron Saunders but even his granite expression cracks into a smile when he is asked if he is superstitious.

"I think everybody who is competitive is superstitious in some way or other" he says, "and I'm no exception."

It was Ron who called in the experts in the occult to try and lift a gipsy curse which had been placed on St Andrews in the distant past.

So this mystical part of the mind affects even the biggest and most experienced names in the game.

Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Ray Clemence, with 61 England caps to his name, refuses to go out onto the field before a game. Why? Well because the last time he did it at Anfield he played badly.

Former England stalwart Jack Charlton, a member of England's World Cup winning side in 1966, turned down the captaincy of Leeds United because he would not lead the side out onto the field. Jack's hang-up was that he had to be the last man out if he was to play well.

It is all in the mind, but then the psychological aspect of match preparation is probably the most important and certainly the least understood.

Mind you some pre-match rituals can border on the bizarre, like that enacted by former Oldham Athletic striker Alan Young.

He says: "I used to be very superstitious. Before one game at Boundary Park I was warming up with a ball in the dressing room, trying to keep it off the ground, when I lost control. The ball struck a light and then crashed down onto a table on which there were cups of tea. It was a terrible mess, broken crockery, spilt tea and milk and sugar.

"Anyway after that slight interruption to my routine I went out and played a blinder. So that was it, before every game I used to try and smash the light bulb and scatter the cups."

Of course as soon as the individual has a bad game the formula has failed and the pantomime ceases, yet curiously the participants do not denounce the habit as mumbo jumbo but instantly look for another routine to cling onto.

As mentioned earlier the mental preparation of players is as important as the physical aspect yet it is the one which we know least about. The Brazilian's for a long time have always included a psychologist in their national team's backroom staff and Tottenham Hotspur and Ipswich Town have both called on the services of similar experts to help their players get into the right frame of mind for the job in hand.

England team boss Bobby Robson, the man who brought the mind benders into the Ipswich dressing room when he was the manager at Portman Road, says: "I believe there is a place in the game for people like this. They help to create a more comfortable and settled state of mind in the players which helps them to perform more efficiently on the pitch."

No doubt the headshrinkers will one day be as much a part of football's back room staff as the physiotherapist is today but until then the majority of players have to depend on their own private individual superstitions.

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Bradley's BRIEF



Ray Bradley of the 'Sunday Express' writes for you

Soccer is a massive Milky Way of stars if you believe the media. If a young stripling shows a fleeting moment of invention in his First Division debut he is granted star status in less time than it takes a defender to trap a ball.

I have lost count of the young stars who have made instant impression on an attentive Press and six months later twinkled off quietly into the twilight.

The noun is the most abused and adulterated cliché in football. But in the galactic structure of cosmology there are meteors whose existence is brilliant but short-lived and solid stars who stand the celestial test of time.

Too many of our bright-eyed kids are mere shooting stars who seem to burn out too quickly. They cannot meet the demands, both physical and mental, in a structure dominated by the managers' favourite cliché . . . pressure.

Now pressure was once described by Tommy Docherty as

the anxiety you feel when you are lying in the oxygen tent and your worst enemy brings a knife out of his pocket and starts to cut your oxygen supply. It's a very perilous state of mind and hard to live with.

Soccer seems to be all about stress and strain, created by managers and coaches who can find no cure for the ambition disease.

COMPASSION

As a decadent failure who despises other people's success, I can find little sympathy for some husky 18-year-old who earns twice my salary and suddenly loses his magnetic field force. And I am not impressed by managers who make massive miscalculations in the transfer market and suddenly spear their remarks with wounding words like "You Press people are to blame. You said he was a star and now the guy believes it."

I suppress a primitive desire to turn the knife and make a smart ass cutting reply. As Stanley Matthews once said: "My job is to swerve them all my days." Now he was a genuine star!

But I do have compassion for some of our kids thrown in at the deep end and expected to emerge as a world class swimmer. They are subjected to constant scrutiny and are frequently not equipped to deal with the mental pressures of an over-publicised profession.

Kids like Norman Whiteside who was hailed as a superstar on the strength of some gritty displays for Northern Ireland . . . a team that won deserved respect in the World Cup. Their real star was the indefatigable Gerry Armstrong, a lion-hearted striker who could not hold down a first team spot at Watford.

DUBBED

Whiteside first showed the signs of strain last season and his form slumped dramatically this term. He was dropped by Manchester United and his confidence could hardly be boosted by talk of instant replacements. It's a mean treadmill for any kid who slips off the high wire.

Striker Tony Cottee made a two-goal debut for West Ham this season and was instantly dubbed the new Jimmy Greaves of soccer. A big tag for a little fellow still trying to find a way through armour-plated defences. Cottee's commitment to the Hammers cause soon found instant critics.

Norwich have another young lad who may make it . . . 19-year-old black winger Louie Donowa who seems to have rocketed into the limelight after only a handful of games. One sports reporter asked me how did I spell his name. The next week he was describing him as a British Pele. The Black Pearl? Now where did I hear that before? The Orient, where one Laurie Cunningham had a couple of successful seasons and he went on to become a £1 million misfit in Madrid.

At Luton 19-year-old ex-Charlton defender Paul Elliott has been described as "A colossus" by manager David Pleat who should know better. England manager Bobby Robson subscribes to the same opinion and says he is "unbeatable in the air." So was Douglas Bader. Now he really was a genuine high flyer . . .



PALACE OF

by COLIN

YOU CAN sense the ambition behind the hustle and bustle that fills the corridors of Selhurst Park these days. Crystal Palace have set their sights on a place with England's footballing elite and intend to one day rub shoulders on equal terms with the likes of Liverpool and Manchester United.

Of course that is the dream of nearly every club in the country, but few have the resources or the ability to turn those dreams into reality. But down amidst the maze of dwellings in this south-east corner of London's sprawling suburbia they both have the means and the capability to turn their intentions into reality.

I was invited down to Selhurst Park by club chairman Ron Noades, a football nut, who has been bold enough to put his money where his mouth is.

Striding purposefully forward he gave me a conducted tour of the ground which now houses a plush licensed restaurant, a well appointed function room, which can seat 400 people, a pub, sports shop, flower stall and gigantic supermarket.

The development programme with Sainsbury's has proved a master stroke. The store attracts some 60,000 customers a week to the Selhurst complex and as far as Mr Noades is concerned those are 60,000 potential customers for Crystal Palace Football club to cash in on.

The commercial department has been moved lock stock and barrel to the shopping precinct where the lottery offices are fronted by a magnificent sports shop which also incorporates a video centre.

Already under construction is a new fish restaurant and a snooker hall, while plans to open a coffee shop are also under discussion.

It is three years since the often maligned Ron Noades stepped in the front door to take over a club balanced precariously on the edge of financial ruin. Three years in which the former property developer — he has just clinched

his first deal since devoting himself full-time to Palace's cause — has worked a minor miracle.

He admits that when he eventually sat in the chair things were much worse than he had envisaged: "Everything went made," he says. "They had virtually printed their own money and I had to sort the mess out. But we put a large investment — £600,000 — into buying something that we knew had the potential to be successful, although I must confess I did not appreciate just how great the financial difficulties would be."

Just how acute the situation had become can be seen from the balance sheet. In 1981, Palace recorded gate receipts of £984,000 with the wage bill amounting to £909,000. A year later the income from the gates had slumped to £510,000 and that to cover wages of £841,000.

The new regime forecast losses of £10,000 a week in June 1982 but through expert manipulation they managed to contain the overall deficit to just £200,000 in that first full season.

"All clubs have got to operate within their means," explains Mr Noades. "I don't feel that any club can progress, or should I say improve, unless at first it bottoms out so that it gets its income and expenditure on equivalent levels. Once you have got this break-even point then you can begin to build.

"I came to Palace because I felt they had all the potential to become one of the top sides in the country.

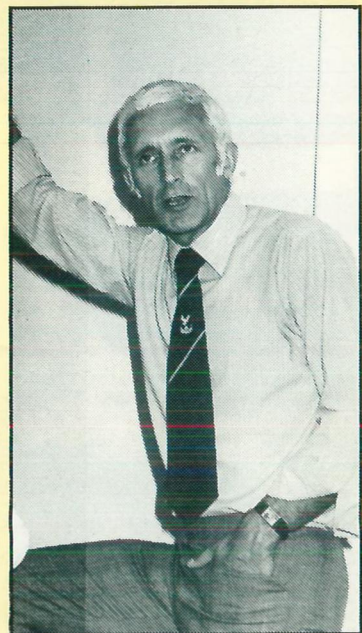
"There is an unopposed catchment area here that can easily support a First Division side and if you are intending to compete with the best then you have to be able to match their resources both on and off the field.

"We have the raw materials to become a big club. We are not far behind Spurs with our ground development so we have the stage but even more important we

have the population around us to draw big crowds if we are doing well, and that is an asset you can't go out and buy.

"It doesn't matter that we will not command gates as big as those at Old Trafford. Because the cost of living is that much higher down here we will get more income on a 20,000 gate than Manchester United bank on a 40,000 attendance and that means that we can compete with the best."

The Palace chairman is a firm believer in letting professionals get on with the job and that is why he franchises out all his commercial outlets. Palace pocket the revenue, which always includes a percentage of the profits, while others shoulder the responsibility and this style of



Ron Noades

business has brought the football club within sight of a profit margin.

The emphasis on drawing income from outside the game itself has been the saving grace. Of the projected £900,000 turnover for this year, £480,000 will be

VARIETIES

BENSON



accumulated from sources other than the turnstiles, the rest will be from the periphery of the club's commercial enterprises.

Commercial manager Graham Drew has proved himself one of the best in the business. Graham's aggressive marketing technique in which his 1,800 agents take the lottery tickets direct to the public — door to door — has proved a winner.

The Eagles agents clear 80,000 tickets weekly, an average of 114 tickets each, which is over double the national average which stands at 47.4.

"We go to the people instead of expecting them to come to us," enthuses Graham, whose lottery's provide the club with another

£250,000 a year.

It is that overall policy to sell themselves to the public that has provided such encouraging returns. "I'm proving that we can pay our way even if the team is not having a particularly good time on the field," says Ron Noades.

"Everything here though is geared to the team. At the moment the way we have budgeted our affairs we need only another 7,000 paying customers through the turnstiles, at every game, to double our gate income. A successful side could do that. If that happens then everything else also brings in more revenue, the catering, programme sales, advertising, shop receipts and so

on without increasing the expenditure.

"I now feel that we are trading at a profit which is the first step on the way. The handicap we are under is the inherent liabilities and you can only finance those arrears from profit. So the first job is to make payments on those to keep the creditors happy, but at the same time ensure that we don't continue losing money.

"The next thing I have to do is wait for a bit more success on the pitch. I happen to believe that our playing squad is as good as any in the Second Division and if we had not had such a serious injury situation this season I feel sure we would be in a challenging position.

"Projecting forward, we have players such as Cummins, Nicholas, Mabbutt, Hilaire, Murphy, Gilbert and Wood who would all be comfortable in the First Division. We might have to add a couple of players when we go up but that is all.

"But we will not speculate on the transfer market with money we haven't got. The terms of the temporary transfer for Peter Nicholas will cost us £50,000, but we took the considered view that his presence in the team would help generate that revenue anyway.

"But any profit we do manage to accumulate will be invested in improving the team."

One gets the feeling that Ron Noades' tactical business acumen will accrue much more than just a healthy balance sheet. Somebody once said; "You should not take too much for granted for too long because the world turns over every 24 hours."

There is no chance of Mr Noades taking anything for granted. Crystal Palace have been through the full spectrum of success and failure. They came from the Fourth Division to the top and back down again like the toss of a coin. This time the Palace chairman is bidding for a much more stable future.

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If Only...

Everyone nurtures a dream occupation, a fantasy job they would like to be in if they were not currently employed in their present position. Some could never achieve their desire because they do not have the talent or qualifications, some have just gone along another road by choice.

In football for instance there are many people who are multi-talented, whose interests could have developed their lives in a different way. Watford and England Under-21 winger Nigel Callaghan for instance is just as much at home on a synthesiser or the drums as he is with the ball at his feet.

"I would love to be a musician," reflects the talented young forward. "But then if I was a musician I would want to be a footballer so I think I had better leave the music to our chairman Elton John."

There can be few more gifted people around than Queens Park Rangers' manager Terry Venables though and he has managed to combine some of his outlets. As a player he played for England at every level, he is a publican, author, and co-writer of the TV series *Hazell* and now the managing director of the club he has steered back to the First Division.

Anyone who has worked with Manchester United boss Ron Atkinson will soon tell you where his latent ambitions lie. If he is not being 'Franz Beckenbauer' on the training pitch then he is crooning in the dressing room.

Ron fancies himself as a second Frank Sinatra so it was no surprise when he volunteered: "I would like to be an international playboy and night club entertainer."

Old blue eyes is back at Old Trafford serenading all those in earshot, and they will vouch he is a much better football club manager.

Nonetheless Rotherham United boss George Kerr, who is always quick to spot talent, quickly offered to join Ron on the variety circuit.

"I would like to have been a singer," smiles George. "Sammy Davis Junior has just made a new record which is absolutely brilliant and it must be great to have talent like that."

"I know people think I'm a joker anyway, but that's what I would like to be: a professional entertainer."

Over on the east coast Grimsby Town's young manager David Booth has no illusions of what he would like to be if he were not in football. "A millionaire," is the positive response. "I started my working life down a mine," says Dave "and in those days the status symbol was a big yacht. So I would like to own a big yacht and travel the world."

"In football I have done everything I really wanted to. If I had not been a footballer though I would have probably been a cricketer. As a youngster I had the chance to join Yorkshire but plumped for a career in football and signed for Barnsley . . . There are no regrets I've loved every minute in the game."

Ken Brown the manager of Norwich City does not want to be anything else at all however. "I trained for two years to be a wood machinist," says Ken, "and all the time I was doing that I was wishing I was a footballer. So when I eventually did get the opportunity to become a player with West Ham I had achieved my dream."

Another who cannot think of life without a ball is Sheffield United chief Ian Porterfield. "All my life has been involved in football, it is something which is deep inside me and I would never want to be involved in anything else," he says.

"We took on former Hartlepool manager Jimmy McGuigan recently as a coach and after a few days back in the groove he said to me. 'When they got rid of me at Hartlepool I didn't just lose my job, I lost my hobby.' That is how deep this game can get you, it becomes a deep rooted love, something you can't do without."

Another famous name back on the football circuit is George Petchey, who has just been taken on by Brighton as their Youth Development manager. The former Millwall manager's name could well have been more synonymous with Wimbledon and Forest Hills however had he followed his other love tennis.

"I would have loved the opportunity to become a tennis player," admits Petchey, a former Essex Junior Champion, who was forced to give up the racquet game when he signed professional forms for West Ham United as a 17-year old as in those days professional sportsmen were not allowed to participate in 'amateur' games.

Today there is a tinge of regret in his voice when he says: "I wish I had gone on for another year. I love the game and still play it as often as possible. I think I would have been a good tennis player if I had realised football was as hard as it is."

But top marks for escapism go to Luton Town boss David Pleat who says: "At times I would like to be a lighthouse keeper, away from the phone and everything else!"



ENGLAND

HAPPY WITH DRAW

A smiling England manager Bobby Robson felt satisfied with England's luck when they drew Northern Ireland, Rumania, Finland and Turkey out of the hat for the World Cup qualifying group III.

"Rumania are the dark horses", he pointed out "and they will be a danger as will Northern Ireland, particularly when you consider that they have beaten West Germany twice in a year."

Turkey will be no pushover either, particularly on their home ground as Billy Bingham will testify. It was Northern Ireland's failure to win a point in Istanbul that cost them a place in next summers European Championship finals in France.

It is ironical that just as the oldest international tournament in the world — the British Championship — has been scrapped England should be thrown together with Billy Bingham's side and Scotland should be drawn with Wales in group VII.

Although the general consensus of opinion seems to point to England having the easier draw of the home nations I would contend that there are more pitfalls awaiting Robson's men in Belfast, Bucharest and Istanbul than will confront Jock Stein's men in Cardiff, Madrid and Reykjavic.

Rumania have qualified for the European Championship Finals in France this summer, overcoming Italy the World Champions and Czechoslovakia en route.

They also punctured our World Cup challenge in the previous tournament, defeating Ron Greenwood's side 2-1 in Bucharest in October 1980 and taking a third point off us following a goalless draw at Wembley in April 1981.

I know that the victory in Bucharest was achieved with a very dubious penalty award, but history recalls that not since our first meeting in that city in May 1939,

EUROPE

GROUP I: Poland, Belgium, Greece, Albania (winner qualifies).

GROUP II: W. Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Portugal, Malta (winner and runner-up qualify).

GROUP III: England, N. Ireland, Rumania, Turkey, Finland (winner and runner-up qualify).

GROUP IV: France, Yugoslavia, E. Germany, Bulgaria, Luxembourg (winner and runner-up qualify).

GROUP V: Austria, Hungary, Holland, Cyprus (winner qualifies).

GROUP VI: Soviet Union, Denmark, Eire, Switzerland, Norway (winner and runner-up qualify).

GROUP VII: Spain, Scotland, Wales, Iceland (winner qualifies).

**Italy, as world champions, qualify automatically. Runners-up in Groups I, V & VII play off for 13th qualifying place. Runner-up in play-off for 13th place meets winner of Oceania group for 14th place.*

SOUTH AMERICA

GROUP I: Argentina, Peru, Columbia, Venezuela.

GROUP II: Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador.

GROUP III: Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia.

**Winners in each group qualify. Runners-up, together with third-placed team in Group I, play off for fourth qualifying place.*

OCEANIA: Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Israel.

**Teams play each other twice in a League system. The winner of the group enters a two-match play-off against the runner-up of the European supplementary group for a place in the finals.*

ASIA: GROUP I: Sub Group I: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman. Sub Group II: Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Jordan.

GROUP II: Sub Group I: Kuwait, North Yemen, Syria. Sub Group II: Bahrain, Iran, South Yemen.

GROUP III: Sub Group I: Malaysia, Nepal, South Korea. Sub Group II: Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia.

GROUP IV: Sub Group I: China, Hongkong, Macao, Brunei. Sub Group II: Japan, Singapore, North Korea.

**Two teams qualify for finals.*

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN — Group I: El Salvador v Puerto Rico, Canada v Jamaica, Dutch Antilles v United States. Home & away ties.

Group II: Barbados v Costa Rica, Panama v Honduras, Guatemala bye. Home & away ties.

GROUP III: Trinidad & Tobago v Grenada, Antigua v Haiti, Surinam v Guyana. Home & away ties.

**One team qualifies to join Mexico, the host country, as CONCACAF's two representatives in the final.*

AFRICA: Group I: Egypt v Zimbabwe, Kenya v Ethiopia, Mauritius v Malawi, Zambia v Uganda, Madagascar v Lesotho, Tanzania v Sudan.

GROUP II: Sierra Leone v Morocco, Libya v Niger, Benin v Tunisia.

GROUP III: Togo v Guinea, Ivory Coast v Gambia, Nigeria v Liberia, Angola v Senegal.

**Algeria, Cameroun & Ghana receive byes into second round of qualifying Tournament. Two teams qualify for finals.*



Bryan Robson England's captain, hopes to lead his team to Mexico.

have England achieved a victory over the Rumanian's on their own soil.

As far as England are concerned Turkey provide new opposition, becoming the 43rd different nation to meet us at full-international status, so they are very much an unknown quantity.

Finland of course are the weakest nation in the group. England have met them six times and won the lot although strangely the closest result was the one game played at Wembley, in October 1976, when England won 2-1 in another World Cup qualifying tie.

All the other fixtures were played in Helsinki, England recording wins with 24 goals for and only 3 against.

Perhaps the key to this group could hinge on the two games with Northern Ireland though. Certainly there is a danger that the two home countries could take points off each other and allow say Rumania to squeeze in at our expense.

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Photographer: Neil Nettleship

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

BY DENIS CLAREBROUGH

'BOLTON ILLUMINATIONS'

It is generally understood that the very first floodlit football match took place on this ground October 14, 1878 with two teams chosen by the Sheffield Association from local clubs taking part. The game was splendid publicity for the new 'electric light' which was still something of a novelty. It is known that 12,000 spectators paid to watch the game, but an enormous number saw the game without payment after the gates were forced, and the crowd, most of whom saw very little football, was estimated to be 20,000 strong. This was quite extraordinary, bearing in mind that the F.A. Cup Final of that same year was attended by only 5,000 spectators.

What is less well known is that other 'floodlit' football matches were played a decade later, and that Sheffield United's first game using artificial light took place on Monday, November 18, 1889 and our opponents were Bolton Wanderers.

The match was publicised in the Sheffield morning newspapers. 'This evening Grand Illuminated Football Match by Wells' Patent Light, at Bramall Lane Ground. Bolton Wanderers v United. Kick off 6.45 p.m. Admission 6d. Special Stand 6d extra. Entrance Top Gates. Proprietor's Entrance John St.'

The following morning the Sheffield Telegraph had the headline, 'Novel Football Match'. The pitch was illuminated by 14 patent 'Wells' Lights' whilst other lights of the same pattern were used in different parts of the ground. The lights, 300 of which had been used in the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal, were apparently naphtha flares. 'Oil is forced into a tank by a pump and hosepipe and compresses the air already in the tank by about 20lbs pressure. The burner is then heated by burning a little oil in the cup and chimney. The valve being opened the oil is forced up by the light air pressure into the heated burner, and being converted into gas issues from the jet where it may be ignited, and burns in a large powerful flame.'

Novelty without much illumination perhaps summarises the spectators experience. As the Telegraph reported, 'Quite 3,000 attended last night, and if not able to follow the game in its entirety, the novelty evidently had abundant charms for them.'

To another reporter, 'the players appeared to be able to see well enough and the spectators on the

ground fairly well, but those in the stand were too high to get a good view and from the press seat it was impossible to see plainly enough to give a full description of the play'. He at least was brave enough to name the goalscorers for Bolton, who won 2-0, as Cassidy and Weir, but the Telegraph man was evidently happy enough to get the result correct.

The teams on this historic occasion were:-

United:- Howlett; Stringer, Gilmartin; Mack, Hobson, Hudson; Gailbraith, Robertson, Aizlewood, Duncan, Donald.

Bolton:- Sutcliffe; Jones, Haydock; Milne, Roberts, McWhirter; Brogan, Cooper, Cassidy, Weir, McNee.

'The light was provided by Messrs Tasker & Sons, of Commercial Street.'

Bolton had only asked for basic expenses for this friendly game in order to offer United some encouragement in their first season, and they were to offer this helping hand yet again in 1892. They showed no sympathy however when the two teams met in the Second Round of the F.A. Cup on February 1st 1890.

United had been drawn at home, and so were Wednesday, and the Bolton directors persuaded United to switch the game to Bolton, rumour having it that United were offered and accepted a paltry £40 or £50.

The result 13-0! A record for both teams to this day. Our goalkeeper that day was Charlie Howlett, and there were few better, even though he did wear spectacles. He always had his leg pulled about that disastrous match, the tale being that the day was very wet and Charlie spent most of the time looking for his glasses in the mud.

Since the last war, one Bolton player stands out in my memory and that is Nat Lofthouse. He will perhaps recall with amusement and Jimmy Hagan with embarrassment a game at Burnden Park on Good Friday 1947. With 15 minutes to go United were leading 2-1. Bolton were attacking and Lofthouse in our penalty area appeared to handle the ball and our defenders appealed for a foul. The referee, Arthur Ellis, waved play on, only to see Hagan with the ball in his hands, so certain was he that a foul had been committed. There was only one decision the referee could give and Roberts scored from the spot to equalise. Three minutes later Bolton had won, Hamlett heading in from a corner.

I recall also a bitterly cold Boxing Day 1948 with a frozen pitch. There was no score at the interval but Moir scored four goals and Lofthouse two in the second half.

Nat Lofthouse was a fine centre forward, big, strong, hard working, with a powerful shot and an excellent header of the ball, but above all an opponent to be admired, his challenges vigorous but fair. My memory of him is captured in a few brief moments of a game at Sheffield otherwise forgotten.

He received the ball near the touch line on the right wing at the Bramall Lane end. He was faced by two United players but suddenly he had burst between them and then, from the edge of the area he smashed, and that is the only suitable adjective, the ball into the roof of the United net. A magnificent goal from one of the players who will be long remembered.

Gold Label lager on draught from Whitbread.



WHITBREAD

GATES TO DATE

(Up to and including Saturday 17th December)

	HIGHEST	LOWEST	AVERAGE
Sheffield United	12,441	8,984	10,331
Hull City	16,725	6,857	9,297
Burnley	9,551	5,301	6,864
Oxford United	7,844	4,239	6,194
Bolton Wanderers	9,709	3,992	5,791
Bristol Rovers	7,472	3,861	5,534
Brentford	8,042	3,738	5,111
Rotherham United	8,946	3,466	4,799
Millwall Athletic	6,707	3,776	4,869
Preston North End	6,661	3,198	4,471
Plymouth Argyle	5,458	2,990	4,048
Bournemouth	4,758	3,045	4,012
Port Vale	4,897	2,861	3,962
Lincoln City	6,676	3,103	3,957
Walsall	5,329	2,546	3,953
Gillingham	6,226	3,019	3,910
Newport County	5,015	2,462	3,445
Exeter City	4,742	2,775	3,418
Wigan Athletic	4,858	2,505	3,369
Southend United	4,272	1,819	3,059
Orient	4,206	2,674	3,032
Scunthorpe Utd.	4,406	2,177	3,022
Wimbledon	4,844	2,077	2,985
Bradford City	3,548	2,474	2,894

30 YEARS AGO

After taking only one point from two games with Manchester City over Christmas we went down 2-1 at Bolton on New Year's Day and then forced a 2-2 draw at Blackpool on January 2, 1953. We were a goal down in the opening minutes when an ERNIE TAYLOR shot from outside the penalty area rocketed home, but after a WILLIE TONER shot had been cleared off the line ALF RINGSTEAD equalised close on half-time. After the break Taylor netted again, but DEREK HAWKSWORTH got our second goal to earn us a deserved point to keep us two points clear of the relegation zone where Middlesbrough and Liverpool were struggling.

Teams:

BLACKPOOL: Wylie; Shimwell, Garrett, Johnston, Crosland, Kelly, Matthews, Taylor, Mortensen, Brown, Perry.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: Burgin; Coldwell, Ridge, Shaw, Johnson, Rawson, Ringstead, Wragg, Toner, Brook, Hawksworth.

Attendance: 20,470.

Today's visitors, Bolton, were in sixth place after a 2-1 win at Liverpool with WILLIE MOIR and DENNIS STEVENS on the mark while at the top of the table Wolves won 3-1 at Cardiff to stay just ahead of Midland neighbours West Bromwich Albion.

For the first time that season weather interfered with the programme, three games being postponed because of fog and three more abandoned before the end.

20 YEARS AGO

After taking only one point from three games in Christmas week we made the most of our chances in the third round of the F.A. Cup on January 4, 1963 when winning a third round F.A. Cup-tie 4-0 at Third Division Lincoln. TONY WAGSTAFF, BARRY HARTLE and MICK JONES (2) got our goals while today's visitors, Bolton, were indebted to a FRANNY LEE penalty for saving them from an embarrassing defeat at the hands of Southern League Bath. The teams in our game were:

LINCOLN: Carling; Jones, Smith, Miller, Howard, Neal, Holmes, Linnecor, Houghton, Morton, Campbell.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: Hodgkinson; Coldwell, Shaw (B), Richardson, Shaw (J), Summers, Allchurch, Jones, Pace, Wagstaff, Hartle.

Shock of the round was at Newcastle where Southern League Bedford won 2-1 while Aldershot forced a replay by dint of a goalless draw at Villa Park and Port Vale won 2-1 at Birmingham.

Ipswich got the top score of the round, 6-3 against Oldham while the sharpshooting honours went to Liverpool's ALF ARROWSMITH with four of his side's goals in a 5-0 win over Derby.

DON HOWE got a penalty for West Bromwich Albion as they were held to a 2-2 draw by Blackpool and RON SAUNDERS got Portsmouth's consolation goal as they crashed out 4-1 at Stoke.

10 YEARS AGO

New Year's Day 1973 saw us going down 2-1 at home to Chelsea, who needed the points in their battle to keep away from the relegation zone in Division One, with all the goals coming in the first half and ALAN WOODWARD replying to those from JOHN HOLLINS and STEVE KEMBER. Teams:

SHEFFIELD UNITED: Connaughton; Badger, Hemsley, Flynn, Colquhoun, Eddy, Woodward, Salmons, Staniforth (Ogden), Currie, Bone.

CHELSEA: Phillips; Locke, Harris, Hollins, Droy, Webb, Garland, Britton, Garner (Baldwin), Kember, Houseman.

Attendance: 32,575.

We were now in mid-table in Division One while Leeds incredibly were still unbeaten at the top after 24 games, drawing 1-1 with Spurs on this particular day. Bristol Rovers had a similar record at the top of Division Four while today's visitors, Bolton, were held to a goalless draw at Hull and were now eighteenth in Division Two.

This was the first-ever full New Year's Day programme of matches in this country and 668,942 fans watched the 44 league games.

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The Past Reviewed

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THE TROTTERS' JOURNAL

TEAMS FOR TO-DAY'S MATCH

BOLTON WANDERERS

WHITE JERSEYS.

CHURCH

Goal

WAGSTAFFE

Right Back

FINNEY

Left Back

GOSLIN

Right Half Back

SEDDON

Centre Half Back

WRIGHT

Left Half Back

BUTLER

Outside Right

GIBSON

Inside Right

TAIT

Centre Forward

BLACKMORE

Inside Left

VIZARD

Outside Left

Referee: Mr. E. C. CARNWELL
(Lichfield).

Linesmen: Red Flag, Mr. J. Farrer (Lancaster); White Flag, Mr. R. S. Thompson (Rochdale).



KICK-OFF 3-15.

TUNSTALL

Outside Left

OSWALD

Inside Left

DUNNE

Centre Forward

PICKERING

Inside Right

GIBSON (S.)

Outside Right

GREEN

Left Half Back

CARRIGAN

Centre Half Back

GOONEY

Right Half Back

GIBSON (J. R.)

Left Back

THORPE

Right Back

KENDALL

Goal

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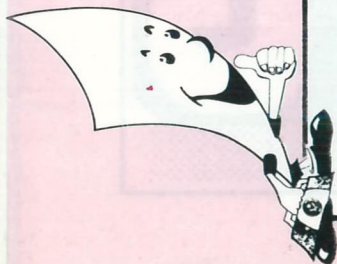
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SHEFFIELD UNITED

- 1 PAUL TOMLINSON
- 2 TOM HEFFERNAN
- 3 JOE BOLTON
- 4 GARY WEST
- 5 PAUL STANCLIFFE
- 6 MIKE HENDERSON
- 7 COLIN MORRIS
- 8 KEVIN ARNOTT
- 9 KEITH EDWARDS
- 10 RAY McHALE
- 11 TONY PHILLISKIRK
- 12 GARY BRAZIL

BOLTON WANDERERS

- 1 SIMON FARNWORTH
- 2 BRIAN BORROWS
- 3 RAY DEAKIN
- 4 WARREN JOYCE
- 5 GERRY McELHINNEY
- 6 PETER VALENTINE
- 7 STEVE THOMPSON
- 8 JEFF CHANDLER
- 9 WAYNE FOSTER
- 10 TONY CALDWELL
- 11 NEIL REDFEARN
- 12

REFEREE: M. L. ROBINSON

MAURICE L. ROBINSON (Sutton Coldfield). Commenced refereeing in Durham before moving to the Birmingham area and to the Southern League and then Football League. Married, with two daughters, he is an Engineer Surveyor, and is keen on golf, squash, swimming and enjoys caravanning. Since 1970 he has been Secretary of Birmingham and District Referees' Association, and in 1981 also became President.

LINESMEN:

Red Flag: **T. F. HILL** (Lincoln)
Yellow Flag: **C. J. SPEAKMAN** (Brigg)

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

(Up to and including Tuesday
27th December 1983)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	21	13	4	4	43	26	43
Hull City	21	11	8	2	35	16	41
Sheffield U.	21	11	6	4	40	23	39
Orient	21	11	4	6	31	23	37
Bristol Rovers	21	11	4	6	34	27	37
Bolton W.	21	10	6	5	33	20	36
Wimbledon	20	11	3	6	48	39	36
Walsall	21	10	6	5	31	28	36
Newport C.	21	9	7	5	29	31	34
Burnley	21	9	6	6	41	26	33
Gillingham	20	10	3	7	37	33	33
Lincoln City	21	10	2	9	28	27	32
Millwall	21	8	6	7	40	41	30
Southern Utd.	20	6	8	8	29	33	24
Preston N.E.	21	6	5	10	33	31	23
Bradford City	20	6	5	9	32	34	23
Plymouth A.	20	6	5	9	23	26	23
Rotherham Utd.	20	6	3	11	20	30	21
Wigan Athletic	21	5	6	10	22	34	21
Exeter City	21	4	7	10	27	37	19
Bournemouth	21	5	4	12	25	41	19
Scunthorpe U.	21	4	6	11	24	39	18
Brentford	20	3	7	10	26	40	16
Port Vale	20	2	3	15	16	42	9

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(Up to and including Saturday
10th December 1983)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	10	10	0	0	24	1	30
West Brom. A.	13	7	3	3	27	17	24
Derby County	11	6	4	1	25	12	22
Liverpool	13	6	4	3	20	12	22
Aston Villa	11	6	2	3	21	12	20
Manchester U.	12	5	3	4	27	14	18
Blackburn R.	11	5	2	4	17	19	17
Newcastle Utd.	10	5	1	5	14	19	16
Sheff. Utd.	11	5	1	5	18	15	14
Nott'm. Forest	11	3	5	2	15	21	14
Leeds United	12	4	1	6	22	28	13
Stoke City	12	4	1	6	18	26	10
Sunderland	12	3	0	8	17	29	9
Sheff. Wed.	11	2	3	6	7	19	9
Burnley	11	2	3	6	7	19	9
Bolton W.	11	1	0	10	9	37	3



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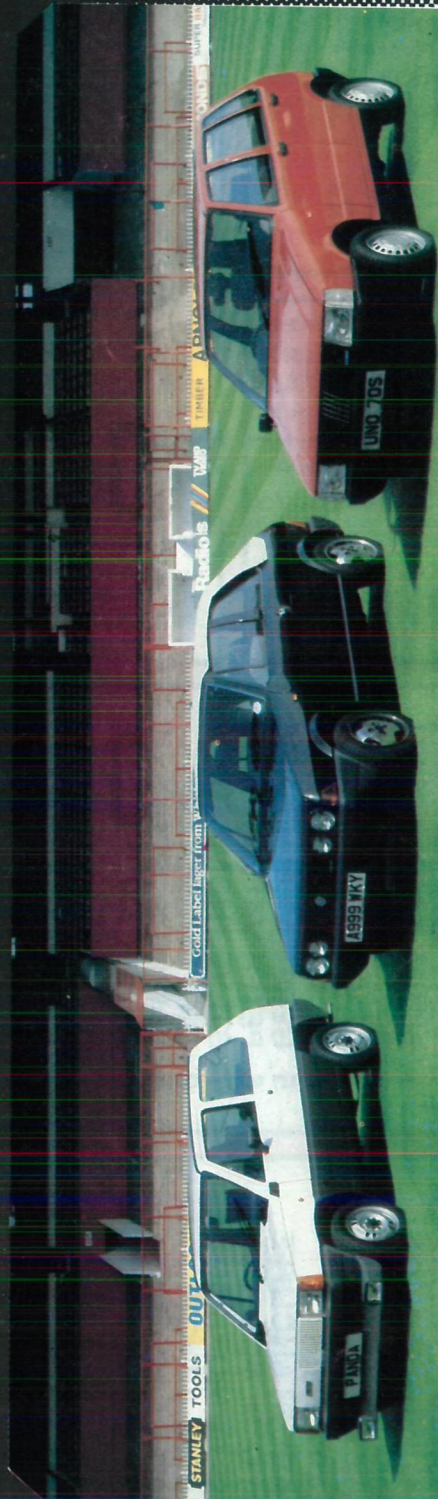
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CENTRAL LEAGUE

	1983	September	October	November	December
Derby County	1-1	1 Derby County	0-7	2 West Bromwich Albion	1-2
Burnley	1-0	15 Burnley	2-0	10 Leeds United	3-3
Everton	0-7	11 Everton	3-1	16 Nottingham Forest	
Stoke City	2-0	19 Sunderland		23 Aston Villa	
Bolton Wanderers	3-1	27 Bolton Wanderers		29 Sheffield Wednesday	
Newcastle United					
Blackburn Rovers					
Liverpool					
Manchester United					
Nottingham Forest					
Aston Villa					
Sheffield Wednesday					
Blackburn Rovers					
Liverpool					
Manchester United					
Stoke City					

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